

AMERICAN RIVER DISTRICT  
AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA  
MAMMOTH BAR OHV O&M  
Fiscal Year 2000/2001

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Mammoth Bar OHV facility is located in the western end of the 40,000-acre Auburn State Recreation Area in Placer County. The OHV area is approximately 850 acres and is within thirty-five minutes driving time from the city of Sacramento. Mammoth Bar accommodates two wheeled motorcycles and ATVs. Funding is made available through a grant from the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of the California State Parks. The Green Sticker monies have allowed park staff to focus on resource conservation, trail rehabilitation and increased law enforcement. The Bureau of Reclamation has provided in excess of \$150,000 for a baseline biological resource report and an archeological survey for the park.

The grant will be used to fund a State Park Supervising Ranger, State Park Ranger, Assistant Resource Ecologist and maintenance staff. These positions will provide law enforcement, resource protection, rescue and first aid, resource monitoring and maintenance at Mammoth Bar.

The grant will also be used to contract with outside agencies, such as California Conservation Corps and California Department of Forestry, for hand labor to perform resource conservation and restoration work and trail repair. Funding will be used to implement the wildlife management and soils monitoring plans.

## **B. COST SUMMARY**

• <b><i>Law Enforcement</i></b>	<u>Cost</u>
Staff	\$151,655
Equipment	7,100
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>\$158,755</b>
• <b><i>Conservation</i></b>	
Staff	\$119,459
Conservation Materials	18,119
Contracts	6,000
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>\$143,578</b>
• <b><i>Restoration</i></b>	
Staff	\$38,995
Materials	6,500
Contracts	4,000
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>\$60,479</b>
• <b><i>O&amp;M Support/Staff/Materials</i></b>	
Staff	\$10,905
Education / Interpretation	4,500
Maintain chemical toilets	4,500
Vehicle Maint. /Fuel	18,000
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>\$37,905</b>
Less B.O.R. Contribution	\$10,000
* Estimated value of volunteer time	15,000
<b><i>Total OHV Grant Request</i></b>	<b>\$400,717</b>

## C. DETAILED COST ESTIMATE

### • *Law Enforcement*

*Staff -*

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Rate with benefits</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
St. Park Supervising Ranger	\$31.96 Hr.	\$66,480
St. Park Ranger	28.88 Hr.	60,072
Senior Park Aid (1100 Hrs.)	13.73 Hr.	15,103
O.H.V. Grant administration		10,000
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>\$ 151,655</i>

*Equipment/Materials -*

Decibel Meter	\$ 600
Law Enforcement Safety Gear & POPE	\$3,000
Law Enforcement Training / Travel	2,500
Volunteer Motorcycle Patrol (200 hrs.)	1,000

*Subtotal* *\$7,100*

***Total Law Enforcement*** ***\$158,755***

### • *Conservation*

*Staff –*

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Rate with benefits</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
Asst. Resource Ecologist (800hrs.)	\$26.50	\$21,200
State Park Worker 1 (1290Hrs.)	23.31	30,070
Park Maint. Asst. (1393 Hrs.)	19.53	27,205
St. Park Equipment Operator. ( 1436 Hrs.)	28.54	40,984

Wildlife Habitat / Protection (\$10,000)  
Monitoring (BOR Contribution)

*Sub Total* *\$119,459*

*Conservation Maintenance/Equipment/Materials*

Signs/ erosion fabric/ stabilization grids/ culverts/ rock/road base	\$10,000
Senior Park Aid (300Hrs.)	\$13.73 4,119

Field Fencing (1,000 ft.)	4,000
*Contracts CCC/CDF Hand Crews	6,000
Sub Total	\$24,119
Total Conservation	<b>\$143,578</b>

- ***Restoration***

*Staff*

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Rate with benefits</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
State Park Worker I (690 Hrs.)	\$23.31	\$16,084
Park Maint. Assist. (536 Hrs.)	19.53	10,468
St. Park Equipment Operator (436 Hrs.)	28.54	12,443
Senior Park Aid (800 Hrs.)	\$13.73	\$10,984
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>\$49,979</i>

*Restoration Materials*

Resource Rehabilitation Supplies (Straw, Seed, Erosion Blanket and Fabric Stabilization Grids, Culverts, Base Rock)	6,500
*Contract CCC/CDF Hand Crews	4,000
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$10,500</i>
<b><i>Total Restoration</i></b>	<b><i>\$60,479</i></b>

- ***Education / Interpretation***

Safety Classes	\$1,500
Public Relations/Volunteer Management	1,000
Update/Reprint Mammoth Bar	2,000
Map and Brochure	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>

*O&M Resource Rehabilitation Support  
Staff*

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
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State Park Worker I (100Hrs)	\$23.31	\$2,321
Park Maint. Assist. (150Hrs)	19.53	2,930
St. Park Equipment Operator (150Hrs.)	28.54	4,281
Senior Park Aid (100Hrs.)	13.73	1,373
Pumping (10) Chemical Toilets		4,500
Vehicle Mileage/Equipment/Fuel/Maintenance		18,000
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>\$33,405</i>
<b>Total O&amp;M Resource Rehabilitation Support Education / Interpretation</b>		<b>\$37,905</b>
<i>Less</i> Bureau of Reclamation Resource Contribution		-\$10,000
<b><i>Total OHV Grant Request</i></b>		<b><i>\$400,717</i></b>

#### **D. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE INCREASE OR SURCHARGE JUSTIFICATION**

The Mammoth Bar O.H.V. Park continues to be a popular regional destination for diversified recreational uses and increased visitation has created the need for a higher level of daily maintenance and law enforcement oversight. The requested increase for the 2000/2001 fiscal year will be used to cover the cost of a State Park Worker I, (an increase of \$48,000 inc. benefits). Wildlife and soils monitoring requirements are a high priority at the OHV Park and have necessitated the request for additional staff to satisfactorily achieve the new grant requirements. The increased number of visitors has correspondingly increased trail use, causing the need for more staff to maintain trails to acceptable standards. In order to maintain trails, roads and motorcycle tracks in a safe condition a full time State Park Equipment Operator is needed to keep trails in compliance with required soil standards (an increase of \$14,800). This request was authorized during the initial grant cycle in 1999. Keeping a part time equipment operator position staffed proved to be difficult and heavy equipment did not receive timely maintenance, resulting in premature mechanical wear and expensive repair costs. The requirement to monitor the park resources has placed additional financial demands that can be met with the current funding request.

The cost summary and detailed cost estimates reflect an average salary increase of approximately 17% across the board for State Park Employees. Staff costs include a full time State Park Worker I that will be dedicated to trail maintenance and restoration. The Worker I will be trained by the Assistant Resource Ecologist and take an active role with the soils and wildlife monitoring and restoration program.

#### **E. OHV USER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Mammoth Bar continues to be highly scrutinized and has received much press and publicity. In August of 2000 a public meeting was held to solicit comments regarding the Mammoth Bar O&M grant. Notice of the meeting and comment solicitation was given to local newspapers. Copies of the grant request were sent to the Friends of the River, Mammoth Bar Riders Association and the Sierra Club. Copies of the grant request were also available for public review at the Auburn and Folsom Offices of California State Parks. Letters in response to this outreach are attached to the grant application.

#### **G. OHV LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will contract with State Parks for patrol and crime prevention for the Mammoth Bar OHV Area. All State and Federal laws and regulations pertaining to OHV use will be enforced. Law enforcement staff includes a Supervising State Park Ranger and a State Park Ranger.

OHV law enforcement will focus on trail patrol to ensure resource protection by preventing OHV users from riding outside the designated OHV area boundary and to prevent riders from entering areas in which restoration work is taking place. Other law enforcement tasks will include checking for compliance with noise requirements, ATV helmet use, registration, spark arrestors and alcohol related laws. Approximately 50 hours a week will be spent on law enforcement. Rangers will patrol the park daily. Signing and distribution of OHV regulatory information will be funded with law enforcement and O&M funds.

Law enforcement statistics for the last 18 months include 66 citations for violations of spark arrestor laws, speed laws, registration and equipment requirements and resource damage. Verbal warnings were given to 86 visitors for registration, equipment, noise and speed violations. Three physical arrests were made. There was one fatality and three OHV related searches. There were 30 major injuries that required transport to the hospital.

## **H. GENERAL SITE MAP/PLAN**

See attached

## **I. FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Priority 1.

## **J. NEPA/CEQA**

See attached

## **K. FACILITY SCHEDULE**

The OHV Park is open daily, year round. The hours of operation are 8:00 am to 8:00 pm May 1- Sept 14; 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Sept 15 to 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in Oct.; 8:00 am to 5:00 pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Oct. – April 30. Mammoth Bar OHV currently hosts four two-day Trials events annually. *(As of August 2000 the park hours have been modified. The modified hours will remain in effect for eighteen months until the management plan is completed.) The modified days are: Oct. 1 thru March 31, open to OHV use Sun., Mon., Thurs. and Fri. April 1 thru Sept. 30 open to OHV use Sun., Mon. and Thurs. Park hours will be 8 a.m. to ½ hour after sunset.*

## **N. SUB-ACTIVITY NARRATIVE**

### **Conservation**

Conservation efforts take place daily in the OHV park. During the 2000/2001 fiscal year these efforts will continue.

### **Trail Tread Repair:**

In 1998 an inventory of trails was completed. Information from this inventory has been used to direct trail maintenance and repairs. Currently there are approximately 2 ½ miles of single-track trail rated as *red*, because of the need for tread surface and or drainage work. These trails are closed and will be repaired in the year 2000. There are 3 ½ miles of trail rated as *yellow* for similar but less severe reasons. Approximately 15 miles of single and double track trail surface will be repaired and trails will be hardened using the Sweko trail compactor, which will reduce the potential for erosion.

### Stream Crossings:

There are 6 dry stream crossings that require armoring. These crossings will be armored to protect water quality and meet OHV program guidelines.

### Brushing:

Brushing will continue to prevent overgrowing of trails and to provide a safety margin for riders. This also encourages riders to stay on designated trails and opens corridors for wildlife.

### Signing and Fencing:

To reduce confusion and prevent riders from straying off designated trails, approximately 20 additional informational and directional signs will be installed. This will act to prevent potential resource damage. Fencing, along with area-closed signs will be used to protect sensitive resource sites of natural or cultural importance.

### Noxious Weed Spread:

Noxious weeds have become well established in Auburn State Recreation Area. The California State Parks and the California Department of Forestry have been conducting prescription burns to attempt to control the spread of noxious weeds, reduce fuel loading and improve wildlife habitat. More prescriptive burns are planned. The OHV program can assist with this effort by grubbing out and removing the weeds on or along the sides of existing OHV routes and parking areas.

### Mammoth Bar Motocross Dust Abatement and Tread Repair:

With OHV funds the motocross tracks will be continued to be groomed twice a week and watered 5 to 6 days a week during non-rain periods. This practice reduces dust, improving air quality, in the river canyon. Rider safety is also improved. Motocross use represents approximately 50% of OHV activity in the park. The tracks are the only free tracks within a 50-mile radius. Sediment basins will be maintained throughout the motocross tracks and OHV Park.

## Monitoring

Complete wildlife habitat and soil survey monitoring plans will be completed this fiscal year. Using the *Soils Conservation Guidelines Standards for OHV Recreation Management*, soils will be monitored and emphasis for repair will be placed on streambeds or gully crossings.

## Restoration

Three river bars upriver of Mammoth Bar on river right, (Browns, Kennebeck and Hoosier Bars) will be posted with closure signs and fenced as necessary. Landform and vegetation restoration are slated for completion within the next 18 months.

Eroded portions of the Castle Rock fuel break will receive vegetation restoration by seeding and will be mulched. Broadcast seeding and mulching efforts will continue



park wide as needed.

Recontouring and revegetation will mitigate pre-existing resource damage, such as old 4WD roads and involuntary trails with their associated erosion problems.

## **Law Enforcement**

Mammoth Bar is the only OHV unit within the Auburn State Recreation Area and is the closest OHV unit on the interstate 80 corridor, which serves the greater Sacramento metropolitan area and locations to the east and west to the Bay area.

The Tahoe National Forest offers trail riding only and is restricted during winter due to snow and rain. The Marysville motocross track is for competitive rather than recreational riding and a fee is charged. Prairie City SVRA has limited trail riding and has a professional motocross track for an additional fee to ride.

Because Mammoth Bar is free, offers trail, motocross, and trials riding, in addition to other outdoor recreational activities, it has become a popular regional destination. Its popularity brings the potential for law enforcement problems. These problems include, but are not limited to, use of vehicles in non-designated areas, illegal use of alcohol and drugs, registration and equipment violations, and Vehicle Code violations. It is anticipated that OHV use will be more intense during open days with the modified facilities schedule. Enforcement of OHV closure days will also increase law enforcement activity. (The park has traditionally been open 7 days a week to OHV use since prior to 1977). There is also potential for increased use by non-OHV recreationalists on the OHV closure days.

To hold users accountable for their actions, focused patrols will be done daily and during high use time periods. Areas that typically have common violations are the staging area, motocross tracks, and backcountry resource areas. Backcountry trail patrols will be increased to reduce resource damage and trespass into closed areas.

Public information handouts will be provided and a safety education program will be developed. Area closure signs will be provided and maintained.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Mammoth Bar OHV area was established in 1977 as an interim area within the take line for the Auburn Dam. Prior to that time it was an active off highway vehicle area. During the last seven years, the managed operation of the O.H.V. area has made the park a popular destination for over 29,000 visitors annually. The Bureau of Reclamation is aware of the value of a well-managed O.H.V. program.

Funding for the OHV area has been at a level, which makes it difficult for the managing agency to maintain the service, and resource protection the public has come to expect.

Currently, "Green Sticker" grants funding has been secured on a year-by-year basis. The consistent funding has had very positive results at Mammoth Bar. The Mammoth Bar staff has developed a program which protects the natural resources while providing safer riding opportunities for OHV users, other recreational users and their families. With the continued increase in popularity, the demand on staff and the need for closer resource protection has increased.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funds the recreational component of the

Auburn State Recreation Area. Conservation and rehabilitation projects will be partially financed through a BOR funding match of \$10,000. The funding will be identified for Mammoth Bar OHV as a part of the overall Auburn State Recreation Area budget. The funding is subject to adequate federal appropriation. It is the Bureau of Reclamation's goal to maintain current recreational opportunities within the Auburn SRA. Due to the increased popularity of this area, BOR is requesting that the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division assist them in keeping this area open for OHV riding opportunity through this Grant Program.

## O. SUB ACTIVITY COST ESTIMATE

### CONSERVATION SUB-ACTIVITY

<b>A. Labor</b>	<b><u>Hours</u></b>	
1. Assistant Resource Ecologist	800	\$21,200
2. State Park Equipment Operator	1436	40,984
3. Park Maintenance Assistant	1393	27,205
4. Worker 1	1290	30,070
5. Senior Park Aid	300	4,119
<b>B. <u>Equipment Usage Reimbursement</u></b>	<b><u>Time/Miles</u></b>	
1. 4WD pickup/ATVs	1200 mi	2,500
<b>C. <u>Trail &amp; Structure Maint./Repair</u></b>	<b><u>No.</u></b>	
1. Sign Replacement/Repair	20	1,500
2. OHV Trailhead Displays	1	1,000
3. Trail Tread Hardening/Repair	8 mi.	<u>16,500</u>
	<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$143,578</i>

### LAW ENFORCEMENT SUB-ACTIVITY

<b>A. Staff</b>	<b><u>Hours</u></b>	
1. Supervising State Park Ranger	1920	\$66,480
2. State Park Ranger	1920	60,072
3. Senior Park Aid	1100	15,103
Grant Administration		
4. Office Assistant	590	10,000
<b>B. <u>Patrol Vehicles</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	
1. 4X4 Pickup	12 mo.	3,000
2. Motorcycle/Quad	12 mo.	1,000
<b>C. <u>Materials</u></b>	<b><u>No.</u></b>	
1. M/C Safety Equipment	1	2,500
2. Signs	12	<u>600</u>
	<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$158,755</i>

**Total – I & II (rounded \$1,000s) \$302,333**

